

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ceramic porous sintered body comprising:  
a sintered body comprising a plurality of ceramic coarse particles; and a bonding layer  
existing between the ceramic coarse particles to connect the coarse particles; and a  
polycrystalline sintered body forming [[said]] a bonding layer, the bonding layer existing  
between the ceramic coarse particles and connecting the ceramic particles, [[and]]  
wherein the polycrystalline sintered body includes including a plurality of ceramic  
fine particles having an average particle size smaller than the ceramic coarse particles, and  
wherein said ceramic porous sintered body, including said ceramic coarse particles and said  
bonding layer existing between the ceramic coarse particles, has an average pore diameter of  
5  $\mu$ m to 50  $\mu$ m.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1,  
wherein the ceramic coarse particles comprise single-crystal particles.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1,  
wherein the bonding layer is a brittle body having a strength lower than [[that]] a strength of  
the ceramic coarse particles.

Claims 5-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1,  
wherein the bonding layer includes at least one sintering aid selected from the group  
consisting of iron, aluminium, nickel, titanium, chromium and a metal oxide thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The ceramic sintered body according to claim 7,  
wherein [[the]] a content of the sintering aid in the bonding layer is higher than [[that]] a  
content contained in the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic coarse particles and the bonding ~~layers~~ layer comprise a silicon carbide material.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of an average particle size of the ceramic coarse particle to the ceramic fine particles is 15:1 - 200:1.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The ceramic sintered body according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of total weight of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is 1:1 - 9:1.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A ceramic filter ~~with a honeycomb structure including a pillar-shaped porous ceramic member or a combination of a plurality of the pillar-shaped porous ceramic members in which a plurality of cells as a gas passageway are arranged side by side in a longitudinal direction through cell walls and either one end portions of these cells are plugged, the filter comprising:~~

a pillar-shaped porous ceramic member having a plurality of cells for a gas passageways in a longitudinal direction of the pillar-shaped porous ceramic member and comprising a ceramic porous sintered body including a plurality of ceramic coarse particles and a polycrystalline sintered body forming a bonding layer, the bonding layer connecting and existing between the ceramic coarse particles, ~~to connect the coarse particles and a polycrystalline sintered body forming said~~

wherein the bonding layer and including includes a plurality of ceramic fine particles having an average particle size smaller than the ceramic coarse particles, and the ~~wherein said ceramic porous sintered body, including said ceramic coarse particles and said bonding layer~~

~~existing between the ceramic coarse particles~~, has an average pore diameter of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 14 (previously presented): The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic coarse particles comprise single-crystal particles.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the bonding layer is brittle body having a strength lower than a strength of the ceramic coarse particles.

Claims 17-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the bonding layer contains at least one sintering aid selected from the group consisting of iron, aluminium, nickel, titanium, chromium, and an oxide thereof.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The ceramic filter according to claim 19, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a content of the sintering aid in the bonding layer is higher than ~~[[that]]~~ a content contained in the ceramic coarse particles.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic coarse particles and the bonding layer comprise a silicon carbide material.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein a ratio of an average particle size of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is 15:1 - 200:1.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein a ratio of total weight of the ceramic coarse particles to the ceramic fine particles is 1:1 - 9:1.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (previously presented): A ceramic filter according to claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic coarse particle is 30  $\mu\text{m}$  to 70  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 26 (previously presented): A ceramic filter according to claim 1, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic fine particle is 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20 $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 27 (previously presented): A ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic coarse particle is 30  $\mu\text{m}$  to 70  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 28 (previously presented): A ceramic filter according to claim 13, wherein the average particle size of the ceramic fine particle is 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20 $\mu\text{m}$ .